

We Claim:

1. A method for treating an infectious disease caused by bacteria in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an isolated and purified bacteriophage from the species *Myoviridae*.
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2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the infectious disease is caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
- 10 3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the bacteriophage is one or more of *φ812*, *φ131*, *SK311* or *U16*.
- 15 4. A method of claim 2 wherein the bacteriophage is selected from the group consisting of *φ812*, *φ131*, *SK311*, and *U16*.
5. A method of claim 3 wherein the bacteriophage is capable of lysing about 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 99% of MRSA strains.
- 20 6. A method for treating an infectious disease caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment one or more of *φ812*, *φ131*, *SK311* or *U16*.
7. A method of claim 6 wherein the animal is administered *φ812*, *φ131*, *SK311* and *U16*.
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8. A method of reducing virulence of bacteria in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an isolated and purified bacteriophage from the species *Myovirida*.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the bacteria is a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the bacteriophage is one or more
5 of ϕ 812, ϕ 131, SK311 or U16.

11. A method of claim 8 wherein the bacteriophage is selected from the group
consisting of ϕ 812, ϕ 131, SK311, and U16.

10 12. Methods for killing or inhibiting the growth of bacteria comprising
contacting the bacteria with an effective amount of an isolated and purified bacteriophage
from the species *Myoviridae*.

15 13. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the bacteria is a methicillin-
resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

14. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the bacteriophage is one or
more of ϕ 812, ϕ 131, SK311 or U16.v

20 15. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the method is used to treat a
food product, a substance used in making a food product, a medical instrument, skin, a
surgical implant, or metallic, plastic, tile, porcelain, or glass surface.

25 16. A method for treating an infectious disease caused by a bacteria,
comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an antibiotic and/or
chemotherapeutic agent, in combination with a bacteriophage from the species
Myoviridae.

30 17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the bacteriophage is one or
more of ϕ 812, ϕ 131, SK311 or U16.